



# ORD's Office of Science Policy Tribal Science Council

## *Factsheet*

### What Is the Mission of the TSC?

In a manner consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Indian Policy and trust responsibility, the mission of the Tribal Science Council (TSC) is to provide a forum for interaction between Tribal and Agency representatives on environmental science issues.

The Council addresses a wide range of scientific issues, including research, monitoring, modeling, information, technology, and training in Indian country. To support the subsistence, cultural, and ceremonial lifestyles of Indians and the safe use and availability of a healthy environment for present and future generations, the TSC is committed to the development of sound holistic, integrated, and cross-media scientific approaches. The relationship between the Tribes and EPA in the TSC will not substitute for, but rather augment, the government-to-government relationship between EPA and Tribal governments.

### What Are the Goals of the TSC?

The TSC seeks to:

- Develop a better understanding of the priority science issues of Tribes from across the Nation and EPA's ability to address these issues and consider them as part of its formal planning processes.
- Reach consensus on collaborative approaches for addressing priority scientific issues.
- Share EPA scientific products or activities that could help address the priority scientific issues of Tribes.
- Promote partnerships between Tribal and EPA scientists in the development and application of sound science.
- Facilitate communication and coordination with other Agencies and organizations to more effectively respond to issues.

### How Does the TSC Operate?

The TSC strives to address environmental science issues that are priorities for Tribes throughout the country. How these issues are identified and addressed is described below.

- Issues identified by Tribes in an EPA region are brought to the Council through the Tribal TSC representative from that region. Because the Council is designed to complement the existing infrastructure that the EPA established to work with Tribes across the country, scientific issues also can be brought to the attention of the TSC via the Agency TSC representative from Program-specific Agency Tribal advisory groups.
- The Tribal TSC representatives convene and decide if the issue is of national significance, and therefore, will be the focus of the Council's activities.
- The full Council then explores the issue and determines what should be done to address it, including: recommending more research, identifying resources that may be available to advance the issue, or raising the profile of the problem both at the Agency and within the Tribal landscape to ensure that it is included in program-specific activities across the Agency and brought to the attention of Tribes across the country.
- Those issues that are not found to meet the Council's criteria will be referred back to the appropriate EPA Region or Agency-specific work group that can best address the issue.
- Progress on the issues being addressed by the group is communicated to the Tribal Caucus of the Tribal Operations Committee, the Regional Tribal Operations Committee, and throughout the region.

## How Do I Get Involved?

The TSC is continually seeking input from Tribes on priority science issues that they may be facing and related activities that may be going on across the Agency or in other Federal agencies. If you are interested in keeping up with TSC activities, or have issues that you wish to raise, please contact the appropriate Tribal, Regional, or Headquarters TSC representative or the Executive Secretary.

## Who Are the TSC Members?

### **Tribal Representatives**

**Co-Chair:** Chris Gannon, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Dan Kusnierz, Penobscot Nation (Region 1)  
James Ransom, HETF Director, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (Region 2)  
Bernadette Hudnell, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (Region 4)  
John Persell, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (Region 5)  
Kendal Coats, Muscogee (Creek) Nation (Region 6)  
Gina Kneib, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri, Kansas (Region 7)  
Fran King-Brown, Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Region 8)  
Kesner Flores, Cortina Indian Rancheria (Region 9)  
Chris Gannon, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Region 10)

### **Agency Headquarters Representatives**

**Co-Chair:** Sherry Sterling, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances

Carol Jorgensen, American Indian Environmental Office  
Dennis O'Connor, Office of Air and Radiation  
Peter Grevatt, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response  
Steve Young, Office of Environmental Information  
Sherry Sterling, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances  
Arnie Kuzmack, Office of Water  
Al McGartland, Office of Policy and Environmental Innovation  
Harold Zenick, Office of Research & Development

### **Agency Regional Representatives**

Robert Hillger, Region 1  
Roland Hemmett, Region 2  
Thomas Baugh, Region 4  
Robert Springer, Region 5  
Norm Dyer, Region 6  
John Helvig, Region 7  
Kerry Clough, Region 8  
Bobbie Smith, Region 9  
Patricia Cirone, Region 10

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